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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

sept 1959

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE



Abingdon and Faringdon Districts Joint Public Health Committee

Members 1959-60

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. J. S. Candy, "The Gate House", Picklers Hill, Abingdon.
Mr. J. H. Stanley, 71 John Morris Road, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

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Mr. W. T. Palmer, 47 West Way, Botley, Oxford.
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Mr. W. H. Webb, Fox Inn, Steventon, Nr. Abingdon.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

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Mr. D. W. Lansdown, Hatford House, Faringdon.
Mr. O. A. Tunnicliffe, M.C., Church Farm House, Faringdon.
Clerk : Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

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Public Health Inspectors

ABINGDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

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60 Bath Street, Abingdon (Telephone 361).
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Additional Public Health Inspectors :
C. Helsby, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H. B. R. McHugh, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report for 1959.

May I first express my sincere thanks to the Chairmen and Councillors who have been so friendly and helpful, to the General Practitioners and Nurses of the area for their support and co-operation and especially to the Public Health Inspectors for their loyalty, industry and efficiency in their conduct of the great volume and variety of tasks referred to in this report.

Before we come to the usual facts and figures of the year I feel I should try and consider, in a general and non-technical way, a matter of considerable topical concern.

Man's capacity for self deception has throughout history been astonishing. More recent discovery by psychologists of how this comes about has done little to diminish it.

On the contrary the vast expansion of mass media of persuasion such as newspapers, radio and T.V. have enabled millions to be either well advised, or deceived by a few people or advertisements. Notions picked up at our mother's knee have a remarkable power of survival even in face of clear proof that they are false. This is of course well known in the sphere of religious belief. To confine ourselves to the field of health, an example of a belief which is now almost extinct, though it has taken an unconscionable time a-dying, is that bad smells are a cause of disease. Another that is crawling slowly towards its grave is the conviction that damp walls are an important cause of illhealth. But when what our parents have taught us is constantly repeated in adverts by vast vested commercial interests it appears to be irresistible. The fallacy that it is still enjoying the most widespread popularity and often in the most astonishing quarters is well summarized in the phrase "after all cleanliness is Public Health". These are the words used by the general practitioner in persuading the last annual meeting of the British Medical Association to pass a remarkable resolution. It was — that they were "flabbergasted" by the conclusion arrived at by a Medical Research Council committee, which consisted of 21 experts who had studied the matter for 6 years. The verdict that caused the flabbergast was as follows:—"with the possible exception of a few esthetically revolting beaches round the coast of England and Wales the risk to health of bathing in sewage contaminated sea water can for all practical purposes

be ignored. Later, on the B.B.C. one Medical Officer of Health expressed his dismay with the words "the conclusion of the committee virtually cancels out all that we have been doing over the last generation" in teaching the public about the importance of cleanliness.

How has it come about that there can be such disagreements? What are we to decide when experts seem to threaten the very foundations of one of our most cherished convictions, namely that dirt is inherently dangerous and cleanliness is next to Godliness. By 'dirt' of course we must mean visible dirt and as many years of my life have been lived in the near, middle and far east as a boy, a graduate student and as a teacher of medical students, often having to live, sleep and even eat in conditions of filth scarcely imaginable in this country, I have no hesitation in saying that I am entirely in favour of visible cleanliness because it makes life so much more pleasant in so many ways.

Here we have no beaches but we have a river-water pool and many miles of river which receives plenty of sewage effluent. We are also subjected to every form of sales pressure to be and make clean. We should therefore look closely at the problem of the G.P., the M.O.H. and the experts.

How dangerous is what kind of dirt?

Some years ago my job included going round England and Wales to promote food hygiene among food handlers. I would often ask who they considered it would be most dangerous to have handling their food. In S. Wales it might be "my brother who is a miner when he finishes his shift", in Liverpool or London it might be a worker on Lime Street or Paddington Station. At home it would be young Johnnie after playing in the wet garden. And why were these examples of dirt getting onto food dangerous? The answer given was because they all contained germs, and germs are dangerous and cause disease if they get into the body by being eaten. But, we ask, what makes the miner's body and clothes so dirty? surely coal, the same kind of coal that has been getting into his mouth and throat and so getting swallowed day after day for years without giving him any illness (coal dust breathed into his lungs is quite a different matter). Similarly the cause of most of the dirt in a Railway terminal is the same harmless coal which has been made even more germ free by having been burnt in the engine's furnace before settling down all over the station.

Johnnie's garden earth on the other hand is positively teeming with germs. Earth the size of a pea would normally contain more germs than the population of the globe — three thousand million — and they are so minute that one can put hundreds of millions of them in a glass of water which still looks sparklingly pure.

All these germs surely are dangerous, does anyone deny that? Alas, that is where people are fooled. Most people usually believe that the vast majority of germs are harmful and that their chief function is to gain entrance to the body and produce various kinds of disease. This notion, so sedulously fostered by advertisers of soaps, cleaners and especially disinfectants, is utterly false. Most germs are not only harmless but are absolutely necessary for the existence of life on this earth. Germs in the soil break up and dissolve dead vegetable and animal matter so that plants can grow and so nourish animals and men. Other germs which take nitrogen straight from the air are essential as the first step towards building up proteins. Germs also are needed to make butter and ripen cheese. Others are responsible for changing the organic matter in sewage into soluble and odourless compounds. Others — moulds — give us penicillin and the other antibiotics; some even make vitamin B for us in our intestines.

But faeces — animal and human — are surely full of dangerous germs. Full? Yes, billions of germs in every morsel but dangerous? — very rarely. As far as animal excreta are concerned, humans very rarely suffer from the same diseases — we don't get foot and mouth disease, swine fever or distemper.

In considering human faeces these facts are relevant. Germs that may be on our food and so are swallowed have not in a real sense got into our bodies. They are only in a 27 foot long tube which passes through our bodies and which at the stomach end contains strong enough acid to kill almost all of them off.

Very few of those that survive can do any harm by penetrating the walls and multiplying. Further the immense numbers of germs which thrive in our intestines don't do us any harm so it is reasonable to ask why they should do any harm in any one else's if he should happen to eat them. In fact, as a rule they don't (apart from babies who have not yet got used to fecal germs). Those lunatics in the past who have suffered from the perversion known as coprophagy (eating of feces) came to no harm unless there was typhoid or dysentery in the particular feces they ate.

To look at the whole question from a different angle. Suppose we run down the two lists of the commonest causes in this country of deaths and illness and ask ourselves which of them are caused by dirt or even made worse by dirt.

A list of the causes of the 446 deaths in this area last year appears a few pages ahead and is fairly typical. Apart from lung Cancer largely caused by heavy smoking — a form of addiction not normally regarded as "dirty" and bronchitis much aggravated by the same habit, we have to go down to the one death from

Tuberculosis, to find a death which could have been prevented by a very special form of cleanliness and the 3 from gastritis, etc., which emphasises the importance of clean food for infants referred to above. Similarly if we study the list of 246 causes for visits to G.P.s in this country we can group them into:—

1. Those that have no connection with visible dirt. This actually is the vast majority and includes, in the order, not of frequency or importance but as listed:—Cancers, Urticaria Obesity, Diabetes, Anaemia, Mental, Psycho neurotic and personality disorders, "Wax in ears", defects of vision, Heart Disease, High blood pressure, Varicose veins, Indigestion, Dental Caries, Disorders of Menstruation and Menopause, Arthritis and Rheumatism, Sprains, Bruises, Cuts, Burns and certain symptoms of senility.

2. Those having some connection with what is not commonly regarded as dirt — the invisible droplets spread by coughs and sneezes. This includes the common cold and its many relatives such as 'Flu, Tonsillitis, Pharyngitis, Laryngitis, Otitis, most of the children's fevers from measles to polio and the very common bronchitis which is made worse by the common cold and by smoke, and especially smoking

3. Those which have some connection with visible dirt are best divided as (a) those that get into the surface tissues via the skin and cause boils, carbuncles, septic fingers, impetigo, conjunctivitis and styes; (b) those that get into the intestines via the mouth to give Typhoid, Dysentery or food poisoning. Some doctors would include polio here also but we have to admit that polio is less common in the less clean classes and countries.

The truth is that in this country the germs in feces that can cause any disease or illness are very few in number, those that are really dangerous are very rare and their connection with visible dirt extremely small. We must preach cleanliness for the sake of its own great virtues. For the sake of health we should concentrate on those usually *invisible* disease-causing germs (pathogens) when and where they are to be found.

Not until we have outgrown the idea that cleanliness is the sole aim of Public Health are we likely to find that its true aim is to help the development to its greatest possibilities of the body, mind and personality of every individual.

Regular readers of these pages might feel defrauded if there were no sign of my annual exasperation at the criminal delay in reducing by at least half the dental decay of our children's teeth by the very simple, very cheap and very safe fluoridation of our water supplies.

I can only make this comment on a sentence in the last Annual Report of the Ministry of Health (1958 Pg. 16) which says "It is therefore reassuring to know of a means of increasing the resistance of the teeth to caries. This is the fluoridation of water supplies . . ."

Who is reassured by knowing that the Ministry knows what OUGHT to be done?

NOT

Yours truly,

NORMAN PARFIT.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarise the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority. All figures in brackets refer to 1958.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table gives the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1959. It shows that the population densities of the Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural District are very close to the national averages for England and Wales. Abingdon Rural District, however, has a density over three times that of the average Rural District, only one-third of this excess being due to the parishes which are on the outskirts of Oxford, namely, Cumnor, North Hinksey and Kennington.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid- 1959 Pop.	Increase on 1958	Persons per acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	13,630	210	7.77
Abingdon Rural District	41,185	30,150	1,320	.73
Faringdon Rural District	55,726	13,530	120	.24
Totals	98,665	57,310	1,650	.58

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of Population. 'Corrected' rates are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole, or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows : Abingdon Borough 0.91 : 1.24 : Abingdon Rural District 0.98 : 1.28 : and Faringdon Rural District 1.03 : 1.14.

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	282 (314)	18.8	121 (120)	11.0
Abingdon Rural	657 (622)	21.4	220 (271)	9.3
Faringdon Rural	265 (263)	20.2	125 (131)	10.5
Total	1204 (1199)	20.5 (21.1)	466 (522)	10.3(11.3)
England and Wales		16.5(16.4)		11.6(11.7)

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	5	276	18.1
Abingdon Rural District	12	643	18.6
Faringdon Rural District	8	256	31.2
Totals	25 (14)	1175 (1185)	21.2 (11.8)
England and Wales			22.0 (22.5)

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	6	—	6	21.3
Abingdon Rural District	14	—	14	21.3
Faringdon Rural District	9	1	10	30.2
Totals	29	1	30	23.3
England and Wales				20.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the seventh year there were no deaths attributed to accidents of childbirth.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 466 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:—

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total 1959	Total 1958
Coronary Diseases, Angina	21	30	7	58	(75)
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	3	3	9	(10)
Other Heart disease	13	34	27	74	(81)
(Total Heart disease)	37	67	37	141	(166)
Vascular disease of the Nervous System (Stroke)	9	36	16	61	(77)
Other circulatory disease	6	7	5	18	(21)
Cancer of Lung	2	13	2	17	(18)
Other Cancers	20	23	17	60	(70)
Pneumonia	9	20	2	31	(29)
Bronchitis	12	8	4	24	(23)
Influenza	6	5	4	15	(8)
Other diseases of the Respiratory System	1	2	1	4	(5)
Road Accidents	1	1	3	5	(11)
All other Accidents	2	12	6	20	(22)
Suicide	1	3	2	6	(3)
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—	1	1	(6)
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	(5)
Non-Pul. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	(—)
Ulcer of Stomach	2	—	2	4	(4)
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	3	4	(4)
Nephritis	1	—	—	1	(4)
Congenital Malformations	—	3	3	6	(3)
Diabetes	1	—	1	2	(2)
Gastritis, Enteritis, etc.	1	—	2	3	(1)
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—	(—)
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	(—)
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	(—)
All other Causes	9	20	14	43	(40)
Total all Causes	121	220	125	446	(522)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1959 (with the 1958 figures in brackets). The near threefold increase in the total is largely accounted for by the spread of measles which tends to occur every alternate year.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	533 (67)	716 (79)	91 (164)	1340 (310)
Whooping Cough	3 (—)	31 (36)	2 (8)	36 (44)
Pneumonia	23 (20)	29 (18)	— (5)	52 (43)
Scarlet Fever	106 (12)	85 (14)	5 (4)	196 (30)
Dysentery	3 (11)	5 (6)	— (—)	8 (17)
Erysipelas	2 (4)	— (1)	— (—)	2 (5)
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (1)	— (2)	1 (—)	1 (3)
Food Poisoning	— (—)	— (2)	— (—)	— (2)
Meningococcal Infection	— (—)	— (2)	— (—)	— (2)
Paratyphoid Fever	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Encephalitis	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Total	670 (115)	866 (161)	100 (181)	1636 (457)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. It distinguishes between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body and shows that it is mostly young adults who are affected.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (All Districts)	
	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.
0—1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
25—35	1	—	4	3	1	1	6	4
35—45	1	1	4	—	—	—	5	1
45—55	—	—	2	—	1	—	3	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Total	2	1	15	3	4	1	21	5
1958 Figures	4	2	15	—	1	2	20	4

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The number of new houses completed during the year was 79 consisting of 42 Council houses, 20 built by the Ministry of Works for A.E.R.E. and 17 built by private persons. A further 97 houses were under construction on 31st December, 1959, of which 30 are Council Houses, 46 Ministry of Works and 21 were private.

The above additional Council houses brought the number erected since the war to 1,184 and with the 570 pre-war houses makes a total of 1,750.

The rents of pre-war houses range from £1.0s.8d. to £1.15s.10d., with an approximate average of £1.10s.0d. per week including rates. Rents for post-war houses range from £1 to £3.13s.6d., the average being approximately £2.5.0d. per week. The number of applicants for Council houses at 31st December, 1959, was 387, including 25 cases under Slum Clearance Schemes.

CARAVANS

The demand for caravan sites is still considerable. No further lettings are to be made on the Council site and as soon as the site is vacated the Council propose to build houses thereon. There were 37 caravans in the Borough on 31st December, 1959, as follows :—

Council's own Site	15	Caravans
One Private Site	7	Caravans
Individual Private Sites	15	Caravans

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Weekly kerbside collections from domestic premises have been maintained, special assistance being given in cases where householders are unable to bring out heavy dustbins. Trade refuse is collected under agreements with commercial and industrial establishments.

Disposal continues at Wick Hall Gravel Pits and the provision of a BTD6 Bulldozer together with a full time tip-man has enabled a higher standard of controlled tipping with improved consolidation to be achieved during the year.

It has been difficult to secure a full complement of men on the collecting vehicles, due to the high level of employment in the area.

For this reason and because of the lack of a ready market the salvage of waste paper has been discontinued.

SALVAGE

The sale of rags and metal continued satisfactorily, but the already poor market for paper was further worsened by the printing strike. Receipts were as follows :—

Rags	...	..	£115	19	6
Metal	...	..	£25	15	0
Paper	...	..	£13	10	0
			<hr/>		
Total			£155	4	6

MORTUARY

The Mortuary was used on 86 occasions including 72 post-mortem examinations. The installation of a refrigeration cabinet is proceeding.

SWIMMING POOL

This is in a meadow beside the Thames from which water is pumped. It is 80 feet long by 30 feet wide and the water is changed weekly on Saturdays. The water is treated by a twice daily addition of a chlorine

solution direct to the pool. The amount added is checked each time by tests for residual chlorine.

Eleven samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological examination with quite satisfactory results especially in view of the great use made of the pool by very large numbers during the exceptionally sunny summer.

The Council are actively considering the provision of improved facilities including a larger swimming pool with constant filtration and chlorination plant.

MEAT AND FOOD

The number of animals slaughtered in the town shows a considerable increase over last year's figures. This trend is likely to continue in view of the expansion of the slaughterhouse. The following tables show the number of carcasses and offal found to be affected with tuberculosis and other conditions as a result of the post-mortem examinations carried out.

No. Inspected	T.B.	No. found to be affected		Whole carcasses	
		% of total	Other Conditions	% of total	T.B. Other Conditions
Caldecott Abattoir					
Steers & Heifers	2170	9	.04	850	39.17
Cows	326	5	1.54	110	34.02
Calves	428	—	—	20	4.06
Sheep	12544	—	—	363	2.08
Pigs	22073	450	2.08	3243	14.07
Total	37541	464	1.23	4586	12.02
				1	211
Bacon Factory					
Pigs	2179	81	3.07	179	8.02
Grand Total	39720	545	1.37	4765	12%
				1	211

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned :—

Meat 38,176 lbs.
Offal 27,411 lbs.

Analysis of Principal Causes of Condemnation of Carcasses

Disease	Steers & Heifers	Cows & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Oedema & Emaciation	6	8	1	27	10	51
Pleurisy and Peritonitis						
Septic	1	1	3	2	20	27
Pneumonia Septic	1	1	2	8	8	20
Pyaemia	—	2	3	2	13	20
Septicemia	—	3	1	1	8	13
Oedema General	1	4	4	2	2	13
Congestion	—	—	2	6	3	11
Erysipelas Ac. Swine	—	—	—	—	9	9
Moribund	—	—	1	4	4	9
Emaciation	—	1	—	8	—	9
Injuries						
Multiple/Septic	—	—	—	2	5	7
All other causes	1	3	2	8	5	19
Totals	10	23	21	70	87	211

(a) Routine examination of all cattle for *Cysticercus Bovis* was carried out. In 18 cases (1.38%) cysts were found and the affected carcases and offal were subjected to cold store treatment at East Hagbourne or Abingdon.

(b) The bulk of condemned meat and offal at the Caldecott Abattoir is disposed of in a digester and processing plant adjoining the premises. A certain amount of condemned meat was sent to other areas for animal feeding. In the case of Messrs. Cottrell's Bacon Factory all condemned meat and offal is disposed of by burial on the Corporation tip.

FOOD OTHER THAN FRESH MEAT

The following foodstuffs were condemned :—

Tinned Food

574 lbs. Meat	4 lbs. Tomatoes
59½ lbs. Fruit	3½ lbs. Fish
35 lbs. Vegetables	7 pts. Milk
10 lbs. Jam	

Fresh Foods

74 lbs. Poultry	4 Stone Cod
56 lbs. Cured Fish	4 gall. Winkles
15 lbs. Cheese	

FOOD PREMISES

The number of various types of premises and the number of visits paid to them in the course of Food Inspection duties were as follows :—

Type	No.	Visits	Type	No.	Visits
Abattoir	1	593	Greengrocers	12	9
Bacon Factory	1	118	Milk Distributors	2	4
Grocers & General Stores	41	62	Licensed Premises	43	3
Sale or Manufacture of Preserved Food	6	43	Sale of Ice Cream	51	3
Butchers	10	28	Fresh & Fried Fish	6	3
Cafes & Restaurants	19	13	Bakeries	3	3

MILK

During the year 13 samples were taken in the course of delivery or at schools in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Class of Milk	Test	No. of Samples Taken	No. of Samples Passed	No. of Samples Void	No. of Samples Failed
Pastuerised	Phosphatase	6	6	—	—
	Methylene Blue	6	4	2	—
T.T. and Pasteurised	Phosphatase	3	3	—	—
	Methylene Blue	3	3	—	—
T.T.	Methylene Blue	4	4	—	—

ICE CREAM

Eight Samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories. All were graded as Grade 1.

HOUSING

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

(1) Houses which on inspection were considered unfit for human habitation	28
(2) Houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	6
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :—	
(a) serving notices requiring execution of works	1
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders	9

(4) The number of informal notices requesting execution of works	6
(5) The number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	3
(6) The number of demolition or closing orders made	9
(7) The number of houses demolished	3

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Ten applications for Discretionary Grants and 8 applications for Standard Grants were received and approved during the year. As well as considerable structural improvements these applications provided the following additional amenities : 9 hot water systems, 6 Bathrooms, 5 Food-stores, 4 W.C.'s, 3 Fuel Stores, 2 New Kitchens, 3 extensions of Kitchens and 1 additional Bedroom and various improvements to drainage, ventilation and natural and artificial lighting.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year an outline scheme for the proposed trunk relief sewer and sewage treatment works was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval, and detail design work for this scheme is proceeding.

Because of frequent failures, a length of foul sewer in Ock Street from Marcham Road to Conduit Road is to be relaid prior to the reconstruction of the carriageway.

A new surface water sewer is to be laid in Saxton Road, Blacknall Road and Caldecott Road during 1960.

WATER

Consumption during the year rose again reaching about 30 gallons per head per day during the peak period. An additional supply of water was obtained by putting into service an existing borehole in The Square, thus giving a further 75,000-85,000 gallons per day. Works on the new service reservoir of 75,000 gallons at Wootton together with the trunk mains is well advanced and these should be completed in the Autumn of 1960.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959

	No.	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories without mechanical power	3	4	—
Factories with mechanical power	57	50	2
Other premises	1	2	—
Total	61	56	3

Cases in which defects were found — Nil.

The number of outworkers in the Borough is 5, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS DURING 1959

General Sanitation Visits :

Refuse Disposal	121
Drainage	70
Water Supply	68
Refuse Collection	62
Factories	56
Offensive Trades	42
Tents, Vans and Sheds	30
Pests	28
Atmospheric Pollution	28
Petroleum	27
Shops	18
Fair Caravans	12
Schools	8
Workplaces	6
Workshops	5
Miscellaneous Visits	160

Under Public Health Act :

Number of Houses Inspected	55
Number of Visits to above houses	55

Under The Housing Acts :

Number of Houses Inspected	367
Number of Visits to above Houses	371
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	40

Infestation, etc. :

Visits re Disinfestation	19
Inquiries in cases of Infectious Diseases	7
Miscellaneous	53

Meat and Food Inspection :

Visits to :—	
Slaughterhouses	711
Market Stalls	191
Grocers	62
Miscellaneous premises re meat	49
Food preparing premises	43
Butchers	28
Street Vendors and Hawkers	25
Restaurants	13
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	9
Dairies and Milk Distributors	4
Bakeries	3
Ice Cream premises	3
Fishmongers and Poulterers	3
Schools	2
Canteens	2
Hospitals	1
Institutions	1
Licensed Premises	1
Visits in connection with Sampling Milk	21
Visits in connection with sampling Ice Cream	17

Total visits during the year 2486

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid 1959	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings	Council Houses	Rateable Value	Product of 1d. Rate	
						(a)	(b)
Appleford	280	862	84	13	1355	£ 5	12
Appleton with Eaton	811	2077	231	32	4737	20	6
Besselsleigh	70	906	22	2	564	2	2
Cumnor	4188	5690	1105	297	49268	208	16
Draycott Moor	508	1054	137	65	2824	11	11
Drayton	1815	2609	495	92	10463	44	3
Frilford	265	1148	66	—	3199	13	14
Fyfield & Tubney	562	2746	173	39	4493	18	17
Garford	117	1068	40	4	521	2	1
Kennington	3473	1369	934	170	32981	138	2
Kingston Bagpuize	179	1109	74	—	1351	5	7
Lyford	81	774	43	—	220	0	18
Marcham	883	2513	247	40	8610	34	17
Milton	875	1466	227	31	33753	139	5
North Hinksey	5058	1069	1355	48	56201	232	9
Radley	1895	2862	304	71	15672	66	6
St. Helen Without	1591	2005	258(d)	8	43338	204	2
South Hinksey	424	509	94	8	4783	20	6
Steventon	1246	2401	385	94	14576	53	16
Sunningwell	1046	1332	274	37	11774	47	10
Sutton Courtenay	2222	2101	735	304	47772	198	0
Wootton	2345	1523	640	147	24628	102	7
Wytham	216	1992	59	—	2988	10	11
Gas Board					) 9499	3	9
Electricity Board					) 36	3	
Totals	30150	41185	7982	1502	£385570	£1620	10
Totals for 1958	28830	41185	8594	1406	£356650	£1528	10

(a) Excludes Residential Caravans

(b) at 1.4.59.

(c) For year 1959/60 to nearest shilling

(d) Excludes R.A.F. Married Quarters

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 198. These consisted of 116 new Council Houses and 82 built by Private Enterprise. A further 125 were under construction on 31st December, 1959, of which 31 were Council Houses and 94 were private.

The distribution of these 323 houses is shown in the following table :—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.59	Completed	Under Construction 31.12.59
Appleford	—	—	—	—
Appleton-with-Eaton	—	—	—	—
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	1
Cumnor	—	15	14	21
Draycott Moor	12	—	3	1
Drayton	—	12	5	6
Frilford	—	—	4	1
Fyfield & Tubney	—	—	3	1
Garford	—	—	—	—
Kennington	—	—	9	24
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	—	—
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	—	1	3
Milton	—	—	—	—
North Hinksey	—	—	16	13
Radley	—	—	2	3
St. Helen Without	—	—	3	3
South Hinksey	—	—	3	1
Steventon	28	—	2	3
Sunningwell	—	—	8	4
Sutton Courtenay	72	4	4	5
Wootton	4	—	5	4
Wytham	—	—	—	—
Totals	116	31	82	94
Totals for 1958	248	127	51	93

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

The re-housing of families living in hatted camps at Steventon and Kingston Bagpuize has now been completed. The huts have been demolished, the sites cleared and the land handed back to the private owners.

The 40 prefabricated bungalows at Wootton and 16 bungalows at Tubney Woods continue to be used and should remain as reasonable homes for some years to come.

CLEARANCE OF UNFIT PROPERTY

In April, the First Phase of the Council's Slum Clearance programme, intended to be completed by the end of 1960, had been carried out, during which time 98 houses had been represented as being unfit for human habitation. Of this number, 10 have been the subject of reconditioning schemes, and the balance have become subject to Orders or Undertakings of one form or another.

Although at this stage the Ministry has not yet called for the Local Authority's Second Phase, this work will go ahead as Staffing arrangements permit. It is believed that the vast majority of houses which remain "unfit" can be repaired and put back into useful service.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Repair and improvement to all classes of property has continued throughout the year and the following table shows the distribution of the work.

Parish	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Bathrooms	New W.C's.
Appleton	—	—	1	1
Cumnor	2	1	—	—
Draycott Moor	1	1	5	5
Drayton	1	1	1	1
Kennington	—	1	2	2
Milton	—	—	—	1
North Hinksey	1	2	4	4
Radley	1	—	1	2
South Hinksey	—	—	1	1
Steventon	1	2	3	3
Sunningwell	1	1	1	1
Sutton Courtenay	2	4	4	6
Wootton	1	—	1	1
Wytham	2	1	1	1
Totals	13	14	25	29
Figures for 1958	10	8	13	12

The above figures include some of the 51 houses which are due to be modernised with the aid of Improvement Grants.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 came into operation on 14th June and altered considerably the basis of Improvement Grants. New "Standard Grants" were introduced to supplement the existing "Discretionary Grants". The Standard Grant, now available as a right to owners of property, is intended to cover less ambitious types of work than those normally considered for Discretionary Grants. They are intended to help towards the cost of installing 5 standard amenities, namely (a) fixed bath or shower in bathroom; (b) wash-hand basin; (c) hot water supply; (d) water closet; and (e) food storage accommodation.

At the end of the current year the Council had approved 6 applications for Standard Grants. Discretionary Grants, for the improvement of 51 properties, amounted to £16,356. Since 1952 Grants to a total of £67,970, involving 228 properties, have been approved by the Council.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The total number of caravans in the District is believed to be similar to that of last year, although only 319 have been licensed under the Public Health Act. As this does not give a true indication of the total number in the area, it is not proposed to show their parish by parish disposition.

Early in the year the Council carefully considered the caravan situation and decided to appoint a Caravan Officer, who would be responsible for the general supervision and control of all caravans in the District. Mr. C. Helsby, Additional Public Health Inspector, was the person chosen for this task and up to the time of his tragic death in November had done a considerable amount of preparatory work in this direction. A comprehensive survey of the District, to implement the Council's intention to acquire a Municipal Site, was the most important part of this work, but unfortunately by the end of the year there was very little visible evidence of the amount of time and thought which had been given to this very complex problem.

The Council is still actively pursuing the possibility of providing a municipal site. Meanwhile, the demand for more sites and more caravans

remains steady and in this connection it is worthy of note that the site licence for Woodlands Caravan Park, Radley, was increased from 75 to 100.

The powers to control caravans and caravan sites are well known to be inadequate, but it is hoped there will be some improvement when and if the Government decide to implement the report of Sir Arton Wilson on "Caravan and Caravan Sites" and new legislation is introduced.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Household refuse continued as a weekly kerbside collection, as in previous years. A further new 16/18 cu. yd. capacity refuse collecting vehicle was put into service during the year, also a bulldozer for disposal work. The volume of refuse required to be collected continued to rise steadily throughout the year and it is by no means certain that even with the three large vehicles now operating they will be adequate to meet the demands of the District without an additional vehicle being put into service.

The future pattern of the service is still uncertain. The refuse tip at Milton has been completed and is almost ready to be handed back to the owner.

The Council's remaining tip at Farmoor will also probably cease to be a tip during 1960, in view of the Oxford City Council's proposal to acquire all the land in that area as a site for an impounding reservoir. With this probability in mind, an exhaustive search for an alternative site has been carried out. The ultimate site of any tip will inevitably affect the number of vehicles and men required to maintain the normal weekly collection.

The question of the provision of litter bins and their emptying again came before the Council for consideration several times during the year, and it was decided to approach a firm of advertising agents, who, in exchange for advertising rights, undertook to supply and maintain litter bins. It is intended that they shall augment the 57 already erected in the District at the Council's expense.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Botley-Kennington Scheme

The first phase of the extension to the sewage disposal works at Kennington was nearly completed and will result in ability to cope with the greatly increased flow. Plans to include the village of Radley in this main scheme are in the course of preparation.

Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton and parts of St. Helen Without

Plans for the extension of the Gozzard Ford Disposal Works were prepared.

Appleton and Part of Cumnor

Plans for the sewerage of the Appleton-Eaton scheme were prepared and Ministry approval obtained.

This scheme will include the remaining part of Cumnor which is not at present sewered, the village of Appleton and the hamlet of Eaton.

Southern Parishes

The second phase of the scheme was almost completed during the year.

It is worthy of note that the sewerage schemes which have been completed or are nearing completion, will effectively serve a population of 19,000.

A preliminary survey of the Boars Hill area was undertaken, but the chance of a main drainage scheme being put in hand in the near future seems extremely remote.

The Consulting Engineers were also invited, in the early part of the year, to submit a scheme for the main drainage of Farmoor.

Proposals were made for a small disposal works at Farmoor, or Alternatively for the effluent to be pumped to Botley, which would join the main Botley-Kennington scheme. In view of Oxford City Council's proposal to construct an impounding reservoir in this area, the former scheme is, of course, unworkable, and any main drainage will, in all probability, have to be pumped to Botley.

WATER

All parishes in the District are now served by a piped water supply, the last parish to be supplied being Lyford, which now obtains a supply from Wantage.

As in previous years, the northern and central areas were supplied by Oxford City Water Undertaking, the southern parishes of Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Milton and Steventon by Wantage R.D.C., and Appleford by Wallingford R.D.C.

Regular sampling of the main supplies continued throughout the year, with very little cause for comment. A slight but persistent contamination was found in water obtained from a standpipe in High Street, Drayton, but later samples proved to be satisfactory.

The following table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies:—

	Total No. of Dwellings	No. of Dwellings supplied with main water	No. of Dwellings supplied by standpipes
<i>Oxford City Water Undertaking</i>			
Appleton	231	161	—
Besselsleigh	22	15	—
Cumnor	1105	1101	—
Draycott Moor	137	124	—
Frilford	66	57	—
Fyfield & Tubney	173	127	—
Garford	40	34	—
Kennington	934	927	—
Kingston Bagpuize	74	53	—
Marcham	247	172	—
North Hinksey	1355	1344	—
Radley	304	274	—
St. Helen Without	258*	255*	—
South Hinksey	94	94	—
Sunningwell	274	252	—
Wootton	640	634	—
Wytham	59	31	—
Total	6013	5263	—

*R.A.F. Married Quarters not included.

	<i>Abingdon R.D.C. Undertaking</i>		
Appleford	84	44	—
Drayton	495	455	21
Lyford	43	5	—
Milton	227	189	15
Steventon	385	307	39
Sutton Courtenay	735	691	5
Total	1969	1691	80
Grand Total	7982	6954	80

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The total number of "Distributors" who have been registered under the above Regulations and who retail in this District is 4. One Dairy (not being a Dairy Farm) has been registered. Seven firms retail in the area under cover of Supplementary Licences.

The collection of samples of milk from Schools in the area continued during the year. Eighteen samples were taken for examination, all passed the Phosphatase Tests, but in 8 cases Methylene Blue Test was declared void as the shade temperature exceeded 65 degrees F.

FOOD PREMISES

The total number of food premises in the area is 136, comprising the following types of business :—

Grocer & General Stores ...	56	Cafes	5
Public Houses	49	Bakehouses	4
Confectionery	11	Greengrocery	3
Butchers	6	Fishmongers	2

Of these 136 premises, 58 are registered for the sale of ice-cream and 4 for the manufacture of sausages.

All the shops in the District were inspected during the year and the general standard of hygiene continues to be satisfactory.

Two shops have been completely modernised.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption :—

English Beef	244 lbs.	Corned Beef	39 lbs.
Pork (tinned)	214 lbs.	Hungarian Ham	7 lbs.
Luncheon Meat (tinned)	168 lbs.	Peaches (tinned)	5 lbs.
Viennese Sausages	75 lbs.		

All condemned food was disposed of by burial in the Council's Refuse Tip.

DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1947

Nine visits have been made to the four premises licensed in this District. One of these has now ceased to operate and the boiler has been removed. The remaining three are considered satisfactory and continue to be licensed.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Rodent Officer carried out control work under the above Act by means of poison.

The total number of visits to premises during the year was 3399 (Local Authority property 16, Dwelling Houses 2,948, Business Premises 96 and Agricultural Property 339), and the number of dead rats and mice recovered was 650.

The number of wasp nests destroyed was 243.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1949

Premises	<i>Inspections</i>			
	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	4	4	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	41	30	—	—
Total	45	34	—	—

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
Unsuitable or defective	4	4
Insufficient	1	1
Total	5	5

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 3 engaged in the making of Wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK, 1959

Number of different premises visited	1761
" Visits made	2014
" Complaints received	111
" Defects or nuisances discovered	62
" Notices served (Informal)	24
" Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
" Prosecutions	Nil

Matters in relation to which visits were made :

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	804
Housing Act — other Visits	179
Miscellaneous	170
Drainage	164
Food Premises	137
Shops Act	106
Housing Inspections	82
Water Supplies	68
Petroleum Storage	51
Keeping of Animals	44
Refuse Collection	38
Pollution (ditches or streams)	37
Factories & Workplaces	34
Nuisances	31
Butchers' Shops	15
Refuse Disposal	24
Milk Supplies	23
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	6
Infectious Disease	6
Bakehouses	4
Unclean Houses	2
Public Houses	2

Number of Defects or Nuisances abated :

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes	—
" Drains or Cesspools	25
" Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	12
" Other defects or nuisances	6
" Pigs or other animals	4
" Deficient or impure water	1
" Overcrowded Houses	1
" Insanitary accumulations or deposits	1

Number of houses connected to water main

163

Number of Water Samples taken	64
" Closets replaced by W.C.'s	29
" Inspections to piggeries	28
" Milk Samples taken	18
" Seizures of unsound food	12

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1959	Area in Acres	Total Dwellings	Council Houses	Rateable Value 31.12.59 (a)	Product of 1d. Rate (b)
Ashbury	544	5609	172	36	3715	14 10
Baulking	120	1580	38	—	489	1 19
Bourton	368	1260	82	6	1743	6 14
Buckland	647	4505	181	—	3937	15 6
Buscot	225	2887	71	—	2312	9 8
Charney Bassett	184	1209	61	—	828	3 7
Coleshill	231	2014	73	—	722	2 15
Compton Beauchamp	101	1812	32	—	569	2 8
Eaton Hastings	111	1570	35	—	439	1 14
Faringdon	3204	3547	1040	282	35115	139 0
Fernham	207	1016	56	8	1237	5 2
Great Coxwell	251	1435	79	12	1114	4 10
Hatford	86	993	27	—	530	2 4
Hinton Waldrist	254	2016	80	14	1116	4 10
Kingston Lisle	231	2040	75	12	1608	6 10
Little Coxwell	226	887	67	—	1295	5 6
Littleworth	243	2350	77	—	1205	4 17
Longcot	289	1894	91	12	1342	5 8
Longworth	766	2291	213	40	4550	18 8
Pusey	101	1040	32	—	645	2 11
Shellingford	176	1761	56	2	1059	4 1
Shrivenham	1963	2695	445(c)	83	29503	112 6
Stanford-in-the-vale	911	2927	289	70	5598	22 9
Uffington	578	2929	183	54	2909	11 10
Watchfield	1394	1517	438(d)	70	21352	88 5
Woolstone	120	1942	40	—	493	1 19
South Western Gas Board	—	—	—	—	1338	5 17
Electricity Board	—	—	—	—	3025	—
Totals	13530	55726	4033	701	£129788	£512 14
Totals for 1958	13410	55726	3979	683	£124191	£503 9

(a) at 31.3.59

(b) to nearest shilling

(c) includes 82 Military Married Quarters.

(d) includes 289 Military Married Quarters.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 56. These consisted of 18 Council Houses and 38 built by Private Enterprise. A further 50 were under construction on the 31st December, 1959, all of which were private.

The distribution of these 56 houses is shown by the following table :—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed 31.12.59	Under Construc- tion 31.12.59	Completed 31.12.59	Under Construc- tion 31.12.59
Ashbury	—	—	2	3
Bourton	6	—	—	—
Buckland	—	—	1	—
Charney Bassett	—	—	—	8
Faringdon	—	—	18	10
Great Coxwell	—	—	—	1
Hatford	—	—	—	2
Littleworth	—	—	1	1
Longcot	—	—	—	5
Longworth	—	—	1	—
Shellingford	—	—	1	—
Shrivenham	—	—	9	4
Stanford-in-the-Vale	—	—	3	2
Uffington	—	—	—	9
Watchfield	12	—	2	5
Totals	18	—	38	50
Totals for 1958	30	16	24	34

RENTS

Maximum rents which are based on the Gross Value for rating purposes range in the case of pre-war houses from 15/- to 22/- and for post-war houses from 24/- to 38/-. Tenants, however, receive rebates which may amount to 14/- for pre-war houses or 25/6d. for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce the rents to minimum figures between 8/- and 11/7d. for pre-war houses and between 12/6d. and 15/3d. for post-war houses.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The following shows the distribution of the 20 caravans licensed in individual parishes on the 31st December, 1959 :—

Parish	Caravans	Parish	Caravans
Buckland	2	Longworth	2
Eaton Hastings	6	Shrivenham	3
Faringdon	3	Stanford-in-the-Vale	1
Great Coxwell	1	Uffington	2
Little Coxwell	1		

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

The refuse collection service was maintained during the year. Refuse was collected from the kerbside, weekly in the parish of Faringdon and fortnightly from the rest of the district.

The work was carried out by one 18 cu. yd. vehicle, which operated satisfactorily throughout the year. With this one vehicle and a team of four men, it was found necessary to work overtime regularly every week in order to complete the schedule.

The amount of refuse handled increased steadily during the year — the increase being in excess of that which would be expected from the number

of new properties being built. The nature of the refuse has changed and is increasing in bulk, with a considerably higher paper content due to the increase in the amount of wrapping used on goods of all types. The increased bulk of refuse presents problems at the tip and makes consolidation difficult, especially during prolonged dry spells.

The new refuse tip at Stanford in the Vale proved satisfactory and leases on other tip sites in the district were terminated after tidying-up operations had been carried out.

Salvage of mixed waste paper was continued during the year and total receipts from this source amounted to £107 14s. compared with £118 17s. 1d. during 1958.

The salvage of tins was discontinued.

WATER

The water supply was maintained at the recognised standard required by the Ministry of Health Grading as listed in the appended table of bacteriological examinations.

Quantity

Despite the severe drought conditions during the summer no shortage of water occurred and no restrictions were imposed on its use, although peak consumptions exceeded 1,000,000 gallons per day.

The inadequate supply which for a number of years has concerned the village of Kingstone Lisle was improved during the year by the installation of a new Booster Station on the Wantage R.D.C. mains at Sparsholt. This resulted in increased pressures generally and although at times shortage still occurred the improvement was marked.

New Connections

The number of new connections made during the year amounted to 112.

Piped Water Supplies

Woolstone remains the only village with a private water supply as its sole source. During the year the private owner opened preliminary negotiations with the Council for the transfer of this private supply to the Council and plans are under way to extend the public main supply from Uffington to Woolstone.

Negotiations were also opened by the Compton Beauchamp Estate for an extension of the water main to the Downs which would necessitate taking a pumping main along the Ridgeway and supplying a covered reservoir immediately behind the White Horse Hill. The Council has agreed to the scheme in principle and work will be put in hand as early as possible. This supply, in addition to bringing water to the hill farms, will make a useful link with the Ashdown Park Borehole via the proposed main extension at Woolstone.

Examinations :

Routine sampling of all piped supplies was carried out during the year and the results of the bacteriological examinations are shown in the following table. Where supplies are chlorinated all samples were taken after such treatment.

Supply	No. of Samples	Ministry of Health's Grading			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	10	10	—	—	—
Folly Hill	11	11	—	—	—
Kingston Lisle	3	3	—	—	—
Woolstone	8	4	4	—	—
Totals	32	28	4	—	—

DETAILS OF DWELLINGS RECEIVING WATER FROM PIPED SUPPLIES EITHER PUBLIC MAIN OR OTHER SOURCE

Parish	Dwellings	Inside the House	Standpipes
Ashbury	172	165	5
Baulking	38	38	—
Bourton	82	81	1
Buckland	181	180	—
Buscot	71	62	8
Charney Bassett	61	61	—
Coleshill	73	69	4
Compton Beauchamp	32	32	—
Eaton Hastings	35	23	12
Faringdon	1040	1030	—
Fernham	56	50	6
Great Coxwell	79	78	—
Hatford	27	23	4
Hinton Waldrist	80	67	13
Kinston Lisle	75	74	1
Little Coxwell	67	58	6
Littleworth	77	75	—
Longcot	91	86	3
Longworth	213	186	8
Pusey	32	28	4
Shellingford	56	56	—
Shrivenham	445	444	1
Stanford	289	264	20
Uffington	183	170	15
Watchfield	438	438	—
Woolstone	40	24	14
Totals	4033 (3981)	3862 (3760)	125 (170)

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year the Sewerage and Scwage Disposal Scheme for Kingston Lisle was completed and brought into use and good progress was made with the new scheme for Hinton Waldrist.

Two further schemes for the sewerage of Longcot and Great Coxwell were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government during the year.

Work is proceeding on schemes for Stanford in the Vale and Buscot which will be followed by Longworth and the major schemes of reconstruction and enlargement at Faringdon.

During the year negotiations between the Council and the War Department were opened for the purchase by the Council of the W.D. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works at Shrivenham which would be used for the reconstruction drainage of Shrivenham and the scheme for the sewerage of Watchfield.

MILK

Two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, and 3 Distributors. Eight firms are licenced to retail milk in the district and one to sell milk wholesale.

MEAT

At the commencement of the year there were 2 licensed slaughterhouses in the district, but during the year slaughtering terminated at the slaughterhouse at Buckland and only that at Faringdon remained.

The following is a list of carcases inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption.

	Steers	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep & Lambs
No. Inspected	320	265	16	20	344	1494
All diseases except T.B.:						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	19	9	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than T.B.	6	3.4	—	—	0.9	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	—	—	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected with T.B.	—	—	—	—	0.4	—

OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption.

104 lbs. Fish	6 lbs. corned beef
29 lbs. tinned ham	7 lbs. tinned luncheon meat
21 lbs. liver	3 tins milk
12 lbs. tinned fruit	1 lb. tinned steak
11 lbs. tinned vegetables	1 jar pickles

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

38 premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and one for the manufacture of this product.

In addition 2 Butchers' shops and 2 Grocers are registered for the sale and manufacture of preserved food.

21 inspections of registered premises were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES

The following list shows the number of food premises in the district set out in accordance with the type of business carried on. The majority of the shops are of the small village general type stores, staffed by the proprietor and members of his family.

Number in the District :	
Grocers and General Stores	45
Confectioners	12
Butchers	9
Cafes	8
Greengrocers	3
Fish Frying establishments	2
Fishmongers	1
Number of inspections carried out on food shops	54
Number of inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles	15
Number of inspections carried out on cafes and inns	32

BAKEHOUSES

Number in District	6
Number of Inspections	6

HOUSING

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	41
Number of Closing Orders made	5

Six cottages, owned by the Council, in a demolition category were demolished by the Council. In addition 4 cottages were demolished being the subject of Closing Orders and 2 further cottages were demolished voluntarily by the owner.

Seven properties which were included in the Council's 1956 slum clearance proposals were rendered fit for habitation during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

30 applications for discretionary improvement grants under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 were approved by the Council. Altogether work under the scheme was completed to 20 properties during the year.

16 applications for standard grants were approved — this scheme was introduced in the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1949

Premises	Inspections			
	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power	8	4	—	—
Factories with mechanical power	38	26	1	1
Total	46	30	1	—

Cases in which defects were found — Nil.

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK
DURING THE YEAR 1959**

Number of visits made	1143
Number of complaints received	125
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	41
Number of notices served (Informal)	18
Number of notices served (Statutory)	1
Number of Prosecutions	Nil
 Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made :	
Slaughterhouses	220
Refuse Disposal	136
Council House Applications	102
Drainage	96
Refuse Collection	91
Water Supplies	84
Miscellaneous Visits	82
Food Premises	71
Petroleum Storage	61
Number of Water Samples taken for examination	58
Factories and Workplaces	30
Schools	22
Tents, Vans and Sheds or similar structures	21
Butchers' Shops	18
Infectious Diseases	18
Nuisances	15
Shops (other than Food shops)	12
Bakehouses	6
Dairies	6
Milk Supplies	7
Unclean Houses	2
Knackers' Yards	2



